



**STATE
SENATOR**
Wayne Kuipers
30TH SENATE DISTRICT E-MAIL UPDATE



Committee Moves Kuipers' Bill to Limit Phosphorous in Fertilizer

Michigan would have some of the toughest phosphorous regulations in the country under legislation recently introduced by Senator Kuipers. The Senate Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Tourism approved Senate Bill (SB) 840 on a bipartisan vote, sending it to the full Senate. The measure would establish statewide limits on the amount of phosphorous in fertilizer for non-agricultural use. Phosphorous run-off promotes excessive algae and vegetation growth, negatively impacting Michigan waterways.

In addition to limiting the phosphorous content of fertilizer, the legislation would also prohibit fertilizer from being applied:

- Within 10 feet of waters unless approved by the state;
- To soil that is frozen or saturated to field capacity; and,
- In a way that spreads fertilizer on roadways, parking lots, concrete, or similar areas that prevent the infiltration of water into the soil.

Legislation Would Help Farmers Reduce Pollution

Members of the Senate and representatives of Michigan's leading agricultural industries are calling on Governor Granholm to approve legislation that would help farmers reduce pollution and odor while also producing renewable energy.

The Senate recently passed Senate Bill (SB) 538, a bill that would help Michigan farmers access loans for agricultural energy production systems. Representatives of the Michigan Agri-Business Association, the Michigan Allied Poultry Association, the Michigan Milk Producers, and the Michigan Pork Producers all signed a letter urging the Governor to sign the measure. Similar legislation was vetoed in 2004.

Methane digesters, one of the most common types of agricultural energy production systems, process animal waste using treatment technology that yields methane gas, and at the same time reduces the volume of solids and liquids. The systems neutralize harmful pathogens, reduce disturbing odors, and the energy produced can either be used to generate electricity for the local farm operation or be sold on the energy market.

Senate Votes to Rename White Pine Trail State Park

Legislation to immediately rename the White Pine Trail State Park the Fred Meijer White Pine Trail State Park was passed by the Senate recently and is headed to the Governor. It will also help facilitate the development of a new trail in North Muskegon that will be named the Fred Meijer Berry Junction Trail. Meijer has offered to donate \$1 million to help finish paving the 92-mile trail in exchange for the trail being named after him. The Natural Resources Trust Fund Board declined the donation, citing a policy not to name a state facility after a private citizen.

House Bill (HB) 6110 will also begin a process to develop definite criteria that can be used in the future to name public recreational facilities after private individuals. It would require the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to work with the Parks Advisory Committee, the Natural Resources Commission (NRC), and the Natural Resources Trust Fund Board to develop guidelines as to whether and how parks and trails are named after individuals.